

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A silyl linker for use in the solid-phase synthesis of nucleic acid, comprised of a compound of the general formula or its ester or salt:



wherein the benzene ring structure is optionally further substituted, each of R1 and R2 is an alkyl ~~or aryl~~ group, and

(A) ~~represents a spacer moiety~~ is an alkylene group represented by the formula $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$ wherein n is 2-18.

2. **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Cancelled)**

4. **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Previously Amended)** The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R1 and R2 are an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

6. **(Cancelled)**

7. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to Claim 1 wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the benzene ring structure ~~$-(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)-$~~ has a substituent.

8. **(Original)** The compound according to Claim 7 wherein the substituent of the benzene ring structure is selected from the group consisting of alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, halogeno, nitro, cyano and methoxy groups.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A 3'-end nucleoside unit having the compound according to Claim 1 linked via an oxygen atom to the 3-position of a sugar of ~~the~~ a nucleoside or its derivative.

10. (Original) The 3'-end nucleoside unit according to Claim 9 wherein a base constituting the nucleoside is thymine.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to Claim 10 which is 5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)—thymidine-3'-O-~~diisopropylsilyl~~ diisopropylsilyl-4-benzoylaminobutanoic acid triethylammonium.

12. (Original) A solid-phase support having the 3'-end nucleoside unit according to Claim 9 introduced thereon.

13. (Original) The solid-phase support according to Claim 12 having the 3'-end nucleoside unit at a ratio of 20-30 $\mu\text{mol/g}$.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The solid-phase support according to Claim 12 or 13, which is a highly cross-linked polystyrene (HCP) ~~HCP~~ solid-phase support.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)